

ONI, NMIC Personnel Receive
Intelligence Community Awards

Leaders and analysts from the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) and the new National Maritime Intelligence Center (NMIC) were honored for their achievements at the National Intelligence Community Awards ceremony held at the Central Intelligence Agency on January 25th.

Personnel from the NMIC and ONI's Nimitz Operational Intelligence Center and Kennedy Irregular Warfare Center were awarded the National Intelligence Meritorious Unit Citation (NIMUC) for support to operations leading to the safe rescue of the master of the Motor Vessel MAERSK ALABAMA who was captured and held hostage by pirates off the coast of Somalia in the Indian Ocean in April 2009. The ONI and NMIC played a critical role by providing timely intelligence to senior U.S. Government decision makers, the interagency Maritime Operational Threat Response process, theater commanders and on-scene Navy operational commanders. Notably, this was the first time NMIC's government-wide mission was employed to facilitate Intelligence Community and interagency collaboration and coordination of maritime information and intelligence to ensure support as a single integrated team.

At the same ceremony, another analytic team from the Farragut Technical Analysis Center – the PCC-772 CHEONAN Team – and NMIC's Director, Rear Admiral Samuel Cox, USN, were awarded the National Intelligence Exceptional Achievement Medal, which recognizes exceptional contributions to the Intelligence Community and the United States. The team deployed to the Republic of Korea (ROK) from April to June 2010 to support the joint ROK/US investigation and determine the cause of the CHEONAN sinking. These personnel were recognized for their dedication and tireless efforts in developing the investigative report that served as the basis for identifying the weapon and perpetrator.

Two other ONI analytic teams were also awarded National Intelligence Meritorious Unit Citations for their analyses of foreign weapons developments. In particular, senior analysts and technical experts from ONI's Farragut Technical Analysis Center were recognized for their analysis of emerging missile threats.

"I was honored to have the opportunity to recognize the superb contributions to national defense by members of the ONI team," said Captain Robert Rupp, Commander of the Office of Naval Intelligence. "They are integral to the Fleet, national and allied decision makers. Their analysis creates valued, predictive intelligence which enables informed decisions – from the tactical level, as in the case of MAERSK ALABAMA, up to the strategic level in the case of the CHEONAN. Additionally, ONI's foreign missile and weapons analysts provide critical support to the Navy and DoD acquisition community by helping to inform force modernization efforts," Capt. Rupp said.

The Office of Naval Intelligence is America's premier maritime intelligence service. ONI is a core element of Global Maritime Intelligence Integration (GMII) and the U.S. Navy's Information Dominance Corps. Established in 1882, ONI is the nation's longest-serving intelligence agency.